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COR - 0775

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

24 February 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR : Acting Chief, DFD

SUBJECT : Development Branch Activity Report, 15-19 February 1960

1. OXGART:

a. On 15 February, Messrs Macy, Ventch and Ecker of the Bureau of the Budget visited DFD to discuss OXGART. Messrs. Saunders and [] of the Agency Comptroller's office were present together with Colonel Burke and Beerli, Messrs. [] and Parangosky of DFD. Mr. Macy asked if further Presidential approval is required for OXGART. Colonel Burke replied that it was the consensus of opinion of the DCI and Deputy DCI that no further Presidential approval is necessary. Further, the full scope of the program is being implemented following a satisfactory technical review, 20 January, [] objectives of the program. Mr. Macy requested a memorandum for the record from the DCI confirming the foregoing. A memorandum is being prepared for transmittal to the DCI via the DD/P. Mr. Macy appeared to be satisfied with the explanation and signified that [] requested from the reserve for OXGART would be released.

b. On 17 February, a Pratt and Whitney proposal was received for a test program and research in order to define a suitable fuel additive carrier and ejection system for OXGART by 30 July 1960. The total cost of this effort is estimated to cost [] including the sum of [] already expended in P & W additive investigations.

c. On 17 February, Minneapolis-Honeywell representatives submitted proposals for an autopilot and an inertial navigation system. The autopilot cost for 12 system tests, spare and ground support equipment is estimated at []. Field operation support is estimated at [] monthly. The inertial navigation system cost for airborne equipment (12 navigation systems, 12 sets of panels and displays) tests and spares was estimated initially []. However, after further discussion with Mr. C. L. Johnson to simplify the panel and displays, the cost was reduced for airborne equipment []. In addition, [] was estimated for the design and development of one set of ground support equipment and a maintenance set and [] is estimated as a monthly estimate for field support. Hence, a total of [] is estimated for the inertial navigation system, spares and ground support equipment.

In view of the estimated cost of the Inertial Navigation System, Mr. C. L. Johnson was asked to obtain a quote from []

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25X1 d. Lockheed's check with [] on the latter's ability to
forge and process large billets, for possible application for the OXCART
A-12 aircraft landing gear, indicated that [] could not contri-
bute anything new to the solution of this problem. 25X1

e. A meeting has been scheduled for 23 February with [] of
Firevel for the purpose of reviewing the contractual aspects of the
Firevel proposal. 25X1

2. CORONA:

25X1 a. [] attended the final preparations at Vandenberg of the pay-
load for #1054 which was unsuccessfully fired on 19 February. The vehicle
went off course after 30 seconds and was destroyed over the base. The
cause was a malfunctioning gyroscope. The nose cone was recovered secure-
ly immediately after the crash. NRO

25X1 b. [] also attended the [] test of #1055 and accepted the
payload. This is now scheduled for 12 March. 25X1

c. No. 1053, containing the GRD payload, is scheduled for 3 March.

3. ARGON:

25X1 [] presented a plan which will provide a back up tracking
system using the Doppler effect. This will be reviewed at the ARGON
progress meeting scheduled for 3 March in Palo Alto. NRO

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7.

[Redacted]

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8. CHALICE:

Negative report.

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9.

[Redacted]

10.

[Redacted]
Chief, Development Branch
DPD-DD/P

25X1

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